

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. Independent claim 1 and dependent claim 18 have been amended. Dependent claim 18 has been returned to its originally-filed form and, among other changes, the “bird’s eye” part of claim 1 has been removed. No new matter is introduced by any of the claim changes, and the amended claims are supported by the original specification (at, for example, pages 45-48 and 53-54).

35 USC § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-11, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Number 2000-128031 to Satoshi (“Satoshi”) in view of Katta (US Pub. 2004/0085447) (“Katta”) and U.S. Patent Number 6,422,062 to King et al. (“King”). Claims 12-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and King, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 4,772,942 to Tuck (“Tuck”). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and King, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,314,364 to Nakamura (“Nakamura”). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and King, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,891,563 to Schofield et al. (“Schofield”). Applicants do not agree with or acquiesce to any of these claim rejections, but applicants hereby amend independent claim 1 to move this application to allowance as soon as possible.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, a display section for displaying a perspective image which can be panned and tilted. This aspect of amended claim 1 provides at least the advantage disclosed on page 19, lines 16-23: “such a function is useful when the driver has to check the distance between his/her own vehicle and adjacent vehicles or obstacles”. Each of the relied-upon references simply fails to teach or suggest at least this aspect of amended claim 1, and thus no combination of these references would have resulted in the system recited in amended claim 1.

Satoshi discloses an all-direction vision sensor (HyperOmni Vision) 12 that is installed so that it can observe 360 degrees around the vehicle as well as the driver. The HyperOmni Vision 12 includes a hyperbolic mirror 8 and a camera 4. The drive recorder further includes an A/D converter 40, that receives analog outputs from the camera 4, a monitor 48 that displays the image pictured and a recording device 42 (see abstract). Satoshi also discloses an image processing section which changes a circular panoramic image into an image without distortion (see drawing 13). It is disclosed in paragraph [0097] that the image is essentially a 360 degree image of around the car. There is no disclosure of a perspective image which can be panned and tilted.

Katta discloses an on vehicle image display apparatus comprising a plurality of cameras, a display image creating means for composing and cutting out a group of images taken by the respective cameras, and an image display means. The image display means cuts out images which compensate for blind spots of the respective cameras (see abstract). The switching unit of Katta selects an image from one of the plurality of cameras and outputs the selected image according to the image display mode (see end of paragraph [0078]). There is no disclosure of a perspective image which can be panned and tilted. Thus, Katta does not make up for the deficiencies of Satoshi.

As the Examiner points out, switching unit 401 of Figure 9 (of Katta) has the ability to select images among 6 images. However, the display section of the presently claimed invention allows a perspective image to be panned and tilted.

King only discloses a glass fog sensor unit and thus also fails to teach or suggest panning and tilting and perspective image.

Similarly, Nakamura, Schofield, and Tuck do not teach or suggest the above-mentioned feature.

Nakamura discloses a system to enable the operator of a vehicle to view road and traffic conditions straight ahead, while simultaneously viewing road and traffic conditions behind the vehicle. Images from the front and rear of the vehicle are displayed on LCD displays 5 positioned above the dashboard. Nakamura does not disclose panning and tilting a perspective image.

Schofield discloses a vehicular vision system which is capable of providing different perspectives surrounding a driver of a vehicle so as to aid the driver in adverse conditions such as fog. These can be displayed on display 20. However, Schofield does not disclose the abovementioned feature of amended claim 1.

Tuck discloses a system for mounting in a vehicle with a wide field of view. While the system can achieve a 360° view of surrounding panorama, Tuck does not disclose a perspective image which can be panned and tilted.

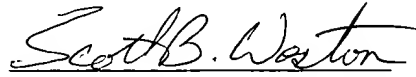
For at least this reason, the present rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims (i.e., claims 1-19) in due course.

Dated: April 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Scott B. Weston Reg. No. 55,854

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP

P.O. Box 55874

Boston, Massachusetts 02205

Direct: (617) 517-5567

Attorney for Applicants

539252_1.DOC (BOS2)

RESPONSE

Serial No. 09/975,678

Attorney Docket No. 56589 (70840)

Page 9 of 9